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(54) Title: METHODS AND MEANS FOR MODIFICATION OF PLANT CHARACTERISTICS USING THE VERNALIZATION GENE VRN2			
(57) Abstract			
<p>An isolated nucleic acid obtainable from the VRN2 locus of a plant, which nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide which is capable of affecting one or more physical characteristics of a plant into which the nucleic acid is introduced, the physical characteristics being selected from vernalization response, flowering time, leaf size and/or shape or shade avoidance response; alleles, fragment and derivatives thereof, polypeptides encoded by such nucleic acids; antibodies to such polypeptides.</p>			